

PRESIDENT: Is there any other business on the desk?

CLERK: None, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Any other pending motions? Any other motions on the desk? Okay. We'll move to General File then. We have several bills bracketed for debate today.

CLERK: I have a motion on the desk, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Read the motion.

CLERK: Ask unanimous consent to bracket LB783 for March 14 on General File. Signed, Senator Fowler.

PRESIDENT: Wants to bracket LB783, Senator Fowler, wants to bracket LB783 until March 14. Are there objections to bracketing LB783 until the 14th? Any objections? Hearing none, so ordered then. We'll bracket the bill until the 14th. Moving to General File, consideration of LB692.

CLERK: LB692, read. There are no committee amendments or other amendments, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY: I have had distributed to you a brochure put out by the people who are principally interested in the agricultural and racing society at Atokad race park in Dakota County. The brochure was designed to fill you in on some of the facets of racing that you may not be aware of. There is a brief history of that track. A track that was built like a husking bee with all or almost volunteer labor from surrounding area. It expresses the concern that prompts this request. As you know, we have a bill before us asking that the taxes on the Lincoln race track be forgiven because they have gotten hopelessly behind in their maintenance and repair and they are asking for a relief. These people are asking to be permitted to try and operate more effectively and more efficiently. The proposed solution is on page 3, on page 4 they set forth the fact that the Constitution of our state, when the people of our state agreed to permit paramutuel horse racing, betting and racing, they made no exclusion with respect to racing on Sunday. The page 5 shows the results of an investigation made by these people to determine in fact there was a very direct benefit from this proposition. On page 6 is a map showing the 23 states who presently have racing on Sunday. This is really a much higher percentage than that would indicate when you take into account the fact that many states such as Iowa do not have racing at all. There are comments on page 7 from other states presently having racing that would indicate the wisdom of this choice. There are comments from other tracks within our state. They have tried to be completely fair in this approach. On page 9 they set forth the need for legislative action. The action of the Legislature in advancing this bill would do one thing. It would permit the racing commission if in their judgment they deemed it proper to do so with regard to any or all tracks, particularly, we hope, with regard to Atokad. But it would permit the racing commission to assign a Sunday racing date if they see fit. It also enables other tracks to apply to the commission for this facility. On page 10 is an item that might well have fit into our discussion this morning. I don't know how familiar you are with the fact that racing in this state is projected to raise a little over five million dollars next year. Racing on Sunday as it presently exists based on current statistics would add to that revenue from racing for the state's general fund in